



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5749

LCO No. 2965

02965_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING LOBSTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of section 26-157c of the general statutes, as amended by
3 this act, concerning regulations governing the taking and possession of
4 lobsters, section 26-295 of the general statutes, concerning the Atlantic
5 States Marine Fisheries Commission, or the American Lobster Fishery
6 Management Plan, published by said commission and as amended
7 from time to time, from July 2, 2006, to July 1, 2007, there shall be no
8 increase made to the minimum lobster carapace length required for the
9 possession or sale of lobsters by commercial fishermen licensed by the
10 Commissioner of Environmental Protection under the authority of
11 section 26-142a of the general statutes, except that any increase in such
12 minimum carapace length above three and five-sixteenths inches or
13 other measures required by said commission shall be adopted by the
14 commissioner. During said time period, there shall be no restrictions,
15 other than those required by said commission, and those in effect as of
16 July 2, 2006, placed on commercial lobster fishing gear, including, but
17 not limited to, lobster pots and lobster pot escape vent dimensions,

18 commercial lobster possession limits, day or trip limits or commercial
19 purchases or sales of lobsters by or from such commercial fishermen.

20 Sec. 2. Section 26-157c of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

22 (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall adopt
23 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, governing
24 the taking of lobsters in the waters of this state and the possession of
25 lobsters in the state regardless of where taken for the purpose of
26 conserving and managing the populations of American lobster.

27 (b) Not later than October 1, 2006, the commissioner shall adopt
28 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
29 implement a lobster trap allocation buy-back program. Said
30 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for a
31 payment of ten dollars for each latent allocated lobster trap
32 permanently retired from the lobster fishery and twenty dollars for
33 each actively fished allocated trap permanently retired from such
34 fishery. Said regulations shall be limited to the buy-back of lobster trap
35 allocations of any resident commercial lobster fisherman who holds a
36 lobster trap allocation issued by the commissioner, or who has
37 received a license transfer with a trap allocation, and shall not require
38 the buy-back of lobster traps.

39 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one million dollars is
40 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection, from the
41 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to implement
42 the provisions of section 26-157c of the general statutes, as amended by
43 this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	26-157c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To assist Connecticut commercial lobster fishermen by prohibiting the adoption of additional lobster management measures, unless required by a mandatory fishery management plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and to implement a lobster trap allocation buy-back program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]